

Name and Address: The Nature Conservancy, 32 S. Ewing, Helena, Montana 59601.

Description: This funding will be used for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire conservation easements along the Montana's Rocky Mountain Front.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: BLM—Land Acquisition

Name and Address: The Nature Conservancy, 32 S. Ewing, Helena, Montana 59601.

Description: This funding will be used for acquiring lands for the Bureau of Land Management to protect the existing federal investment in the project area, including wildlife habitat for grizzly bears, elk, and threatened trout species near the Blackfoot River.

Requesting Member: Rep. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: U.S. Forest Service—Land Acquisition

Name and Address: The Trust for Public Land, 111 South Grand Avenue, Suite #203, Bozeman, Montana 59715.

Description: This funding will be used as an acquisition project for the United States Forest Service to purchase mining claims within the Yellowstone National Park ecosystem. These lands offer natural and recreational resources that will be protected by the United States Forest Service.

RECOGNIZING THE CREW OF THE
RB-47H SHOT DOWN OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS BY THE SOVIET UNION ON JULY 1, 1960

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Willard Palm, Captain Freeman B. Olmstead, Captain John McKone, and the crew of the RB-47H shot down over international waters by the Soviet Union on July 1, 1960. This recognition is well-deserved and highlights the unending service and integrity of our men and women in uniform.

The plane was crewed by Major Willard Palm as aircraft commander; Captain Freeman B. Olmstead as pilot; Captain John McKone as navigator.

Freeman B. Olmstead was born in Elmira, New York, and brought up in a devout Episcopal family. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio. He entered active duty with the Air Force in 1957.

McKone was a native of Tonganoxie, Kansas, and he graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in history in 1954. He entered active duty on March 15, 1955.

On July 1, 1960, a United States Air Force RB-47H based at Forbes Air Force Base, Kansas, departed from Brize-Norton Royal Air Force Base in England. The flight's planned route kept the plane over international waters.

A MiG-19 fighter intercepted the American bomber in the Barents Sea. The MiG eventually opened fire on the RB-47H. Olmstead and McKone successfully ejected and survived only to be picked up by a Soviet fishing vessel. The aircraft commander, however, perished in the Barents Sea.

Ten days after the shootdown, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev announced that they had shot down the bomber and captured the two crewmen. The pair were imprisoned in Moscow's Lubyanka prison, and accused by the Soviets of espionage, punishable by death, for allegedly violating the Soviet Sea frontier.

Shortly after the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy, Premier Nikita Khrushchev extended an offer to free Olmstead and McKone quickly—but with three terms later agreed to.

After seven months of imprisonment and interrogation the guards drove Captain Freeman B. Olmstead and Captain John McKone to the American embassy. They were handed over to U.S. officials to be reunited with their families without having disclosed any information to the Soviet government.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Armed Services, I am continuously struck by the integrity of our servicemembers. With examples like Captain Freeman B. Olmstead and Captain John McKone it is clear where this integrity comes from and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring them.

TRIBUTE TO BEN SACCO

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bernard "Ben" Sacco, a longtime Bakersfield entrepreneur, community leader, and friend who passed away on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at the age of 87.

Ben Sacco was born in a small town outside Salerno, Italy, and immigrated to the United States in 1935. Sacco moved to California after serving his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, and worked in agriculture in Hanford. In 1947, he and Morris Rosenberg founded Sierra Bag Company in Bakersfield to produce containers for local growers.

A devoted recycling advocate, Ben also founded Sierra Iron and Metal Company to recycle salvaged metals in 1959. Eventually, it became Sierra Recycling and Demolition, which cleans up land for redevelopment. On a visit to Italy, Sacco visited a scrap yard near Venice and discovered a unique machine—a mobile baler that could process twice as much scrap metal in a day as its U.S. counterparts. He promptly bought one, and at an age when many are considering retirement, Sacco embarked on a new career equipment vendor. He introduced the combination shear/baler in the United States in 1987, and soon Sierra International Machinery expanded into a major industry. Earlier this year, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries honored Ben Sacco with a lifetime achievement award for his dedication to Sierra International Machinery, LLC. Adding to his list of accomplishments, Sacco founded the Italian Heritage Dante organization in 1996.

Ben Sacco is survived by his wife, Eunice Sacco; sons John, Anthony, and Phillip; daughters Angela, Aragon, and Laura; and six grandchildren. Devoted to serving his community in a variety of ways, Ben's death is a

great loss for the Bakersfield community, but his legacy of dedication to his family, friends, and businesses will always be remembered.

FEDERAL OFFSET PROGRAM

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I am proposing bipartisan legislation to establish a program that would mirror the existing law for states. The legislation, in which I am joined by my colleagues, Representatives WOLF, WITTMAN, and CONNOLLY, would allow certain types of delinquent local tax debt to be collected through the reduction of federal tax refunds. Providing local governments access to these needed and due funds is important both in principle and for budgetary purposes. In the middle of this recession, it is especially important to assist cities and counties to collect the taxes they are owed. The alternatives would be a reduction in vital services and jobs at a time when the government safety net for very poor families who lack jobs has weakened significantly and increases in deep poverty in this recession are likely to be severe. This will impose significantly higher demands on local governments for police, housing and shelter, food, and other vital services. This bill offers a unique opportunity not just to provide hundreds of millions of dollars of desperately needed assistance at no cost to federal taxpayers, but also to protect honest taxpayers from an increase in local property taxes. Under this legislation, the only cost is to the delinquent taxpayer, who would finally be made to pay his or her outstanding tax obligation.

This proposed program would have no additional cost to the federal government. Local governments would pay the federal government the fee of \$25 for each offset refund. It would alleviate the administrative burden to Department of the Treasury by requiring the state taxing authority to act as the clearinghouse. Therefore, the client base for the Department of the Treasury would not increase.

This concept of an offset originated as a way to assist states with securing child support arrearages. It was expanded to allow states to submit other delinquent claims against an individual's federal tax return. This program has been very successful for the states. Now this bill would expand its successful idea and concept to local governments in all states. Doing so could potentially result in several billion dollars annually for local governments by effecting the collection of delinquent taxes.

The bill would instruct the Secretary of the Treasury, upon receiving notice from any eligible state on behalf of a local government, that a named person owes such local government a past-due, legally enforceable tax obligation and provide, consequently, for the reduction of the federal tax refunds payable to such person by the amount of such debt. That amount would be remitted to the state for payment to the affected local government, provide for notification to the state of the taxpayer's name, taxpayer identification number, address, and the amount collected; and notification of the person due the refund that it has been reduced by an amount necessary to satisfy a past-due, legally enforceable tax obligation.